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DATE: July 2, 2004

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EMAIL: swebb@dsoblaw.com

**TO:**

Mail Stop: RCE  
United States Patent and  
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**RE:**

Application No. 09/640,260  
Filed: 8/16/2000  
Art Unit: 2662  
Examiner: Alan V. Nguyen  
Inv.: Joseph B. Tompkins  
Docket No. 00CXT0490N-2

FAX: (703) 872-9306

**MESSAGE** Attached are the following:

1. Request for Continued Examination Transmittal (one page);
2. Credit Card Payment form (1 page).

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PTO/SB/30 (08-03)

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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/840,260; Confirmation 4826
Filing Date	08/16/2000
First Named Inventor	Joseph B. Tompkins
Art Unit	2662
Examiner Name	Alan V. Nguyen
Attorney Docket Number	00CXT0490N-2

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- a. ☒ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

- i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
ii. ☒ Other Response to office action dated 4/20/04, mailed to the USPTO on 5/18/04.

- b. ☐ Enclosed

- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply  
ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)  
iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i) required)  
b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 502622

- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e)  
ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. 1.136 and 1.17)  
iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

- c. ☒ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print /Type)	Steven L. Webb	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	44,395
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	7/2/04

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below:

Name (Print /Type)	Laura S. Meilblom	Date	7/2/04
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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